

SENATE BILL 17

E2, E1

4lr1384

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator West**

Requested: November 1, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Crimes Relating to Animals – Conviction and Sentencing**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that each animal harmed in a violation of a prohibition
4 against animal cruelty is a separate offense; establishing that a conviction for a crime
5 relating to animals may not merge with a conviction for any other crime based on
6 the act establishing the violation and that a sentence imposed may be separate from
7 and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence based on the act establishing a
8 violation; and generally relating to crimes relating to animals.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Criminal Law

11 Section 10–627

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Criminal Law**

17 **10–627.**

18 **(A) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, EACH ANIMAL HARMED IN A**
19 **VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.**

20 **(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A CONVICTION UNDER THIS**
21 **SUBTITLE MAY NOT MERGE WITH A CONVICTION FOR ANY OTHER CRIME BASED ON**
22 **THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(C) A SENTENCE IMPOSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE SEPARATE FROM**
2 **AND CONSECUTIVE TO OR CONCURRENT WITH A SENTENCE FOR ANY CRIME BASED**
3 **ON THE ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2024.